

Overview

Students in ME 370 are randomly assigned to groups that will collectively complete four group homework problems. The purpose of the group homework is to use peer instruction to study the course material. With a moderate effort, it should be easy to get a good grade on the group assignment. The desired outcome of the assignment (apart from a good grade which indicates high quality work) is to help students complete four *individual* homework assignments. The group assignments provide opportunities to think about and discuss the course material in such a way that individuals are likely to be more successful in completing their individual assignments. Individual assignments must be the work of individuals, and not of the group.

Career Planning Assignment

Develop a one-page list of actions that you recommend to freshman and sophomore students who are following you. The actions should cover three categories:

1. Preparations before graduation;
2. Scanning and selecting a “good” job, and;
3. Actions to improve career success during the first 5 years after graduation.

Give at least three items for each category, listed in order from highest to lowest priority. Give a brief (two to three sentence) justification for the top priority in each category.

It is relatively easy to find ideas for each of these three topics. The goal of the assignment is for your group to come to some agreement about the top three actions that you recommend in each category. Working these ideas out in a group should help clarify your own priorities and strategies.

Group discussion of Ideas

Before drafting the one-page list, the group should meet and/or use their D2L discussion forum to exchange and refine their ideas.

Submission via Drop box

Submit the final document via the group drop box on the D2L web site. Only one submission per group is required. One of the early tasks for the group is to decide who will submit the work on the group’s behalf.

The document you submit should have a file name that includes “ME 370” and the group assignment number. The document itself should also have a head with “ME 370”, the assignment number, and the due date. The top of the document should also list the names of all group members. Use a compact layout so that the header information does not take too much space. A header that is 3cm (approximately) tall at the top of the page is sufficient. For the rest of the document, use a neat layout that is easy to read. If you

have trouble fitting all of the information on one page, it is OK to use part of the second page.

Grading Criteria

The assignment has a maximum possible numerical score of 50 points. The table below gives the breakdown of points into five categories.

ME 370, Fall 2014
Group Assignment 1

Points	Category
10	Grammar, spelling, professional format
10	Clarity of ideas and prose
	Completeness of Lists & justification for top priority
10	Prep for graduation
10	Scan and select a good job
10	Actions to improve success in 5 years
50	Total

Peer Evaluation

At the end of the term, each group member will be required to complete a peer evaluation form for every other member in his or her group. The peer evaluation will be based on four categories

- Quantity of work
- Quality of work
- Knowledge of course material
- Teamwork

Of course, being a good member of a team should not require a peer evaluation form. Most students and most teams do well. The peer evaluation allows for teams to call out free-riders. Don't be that guy!